



The President's Daily Brief

4 October 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Satellite photography shows that the Soviets have dismantled two ABM launchers at a launch site at Sary Shagan that had been used to test two new ABMs. (Page 1)

[redacted] Chinese [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 2)

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[redacted] Syria [redacted]
[redacted] Israel [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 3)

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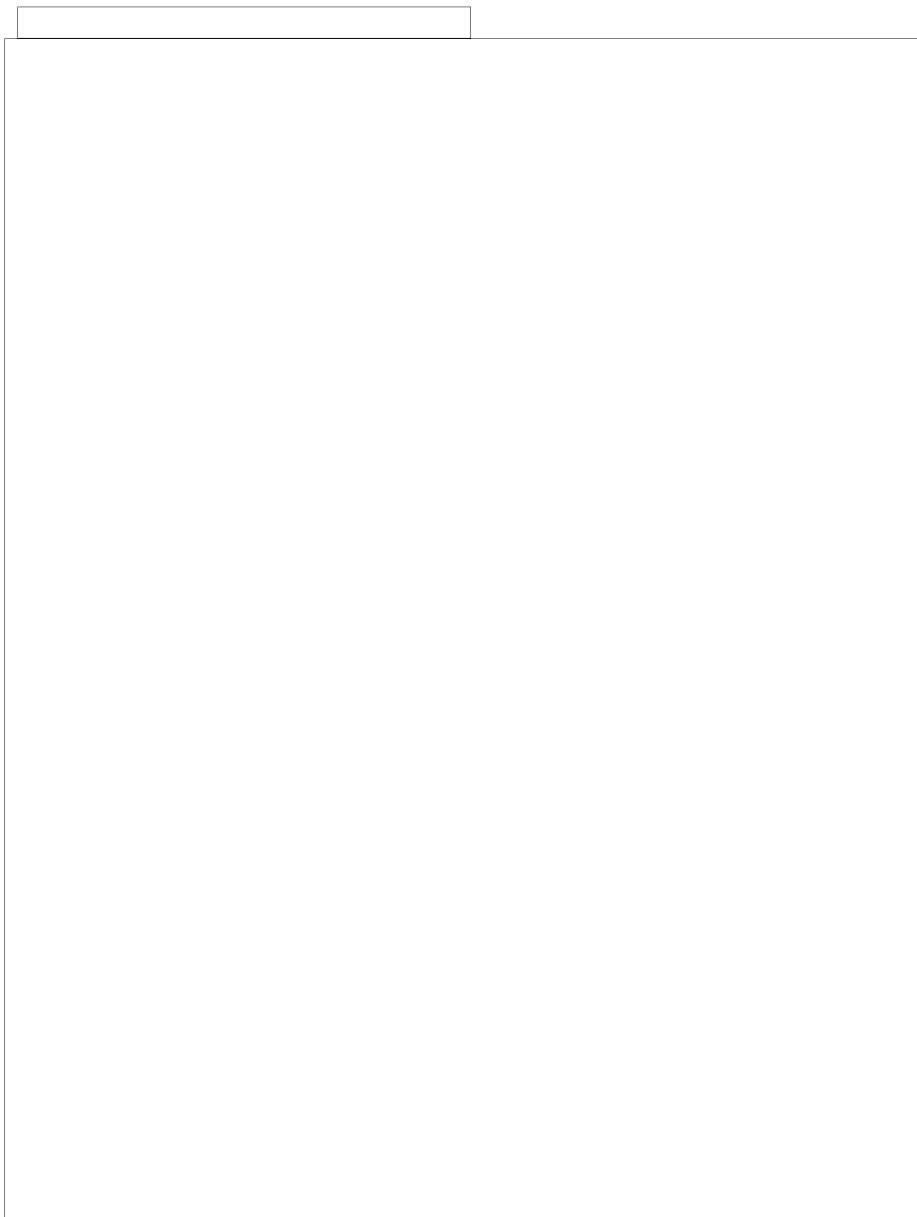
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Officials of the Monsanto Company's European operations suspect that Arab terrorists are trying to sabotage their installations. (Page 4)

In Cambodia, the Communists are keeping government forces off balance on several fronts. (Page 5)

Chilean army commander Prats has publicly defended his recent decision to retire the perennial coup plotter, General Canales. This is a further indication that he does not believe military action against the government is warranted. (Page 6)

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USSR

The Soviets have dismantled two ABM launchers at a launch site at Sary Shagan that had been used to test two new ABMs. Satellite photography showed the launch site intact [] with an ABM canister in one of the two launchers. [] the canister had been removed, both launchers had been dismantled, and the turntables and vehicle guide rails had been bulldozed over.

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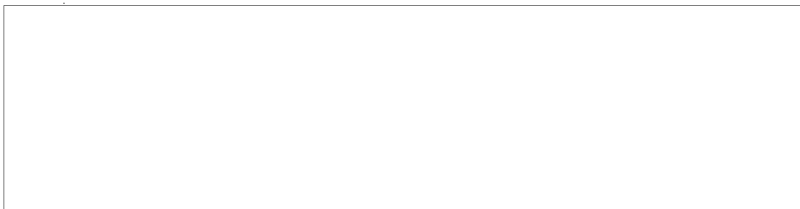
Each of the two new ABMs had been tested from this site five times, but we have not detected any firings since last December.

Under the terms of the ABM treaty, the Soviets are allowed 15 ABM launchers at their R&D test facilities. The Soviets had 17 completed launchers at Sary Shagan. With these two dismantled, they are within the treaty limit.

The Soviets have been working on as many as five additional launchers at various times. None has been completed, and at least two may have been abandoned.

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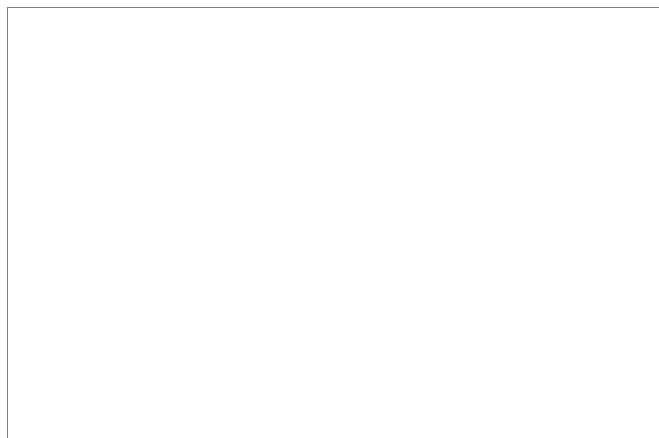
CHINA



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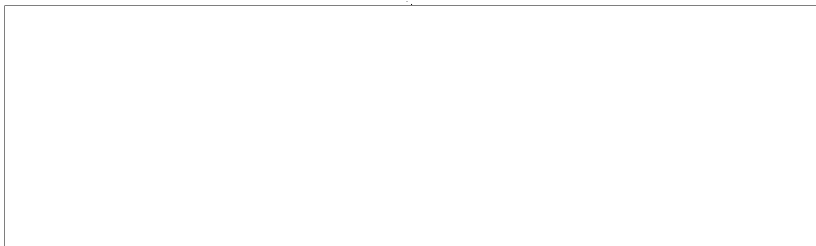
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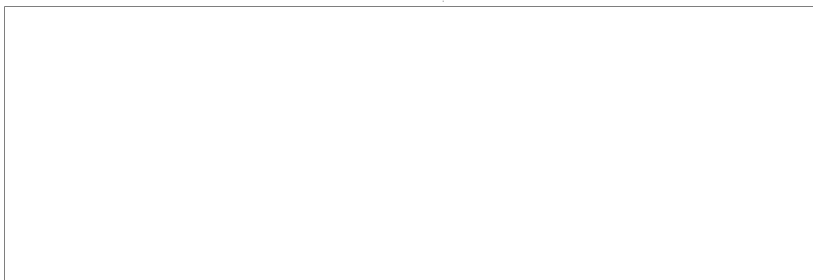
ISRAEL-SYRIA



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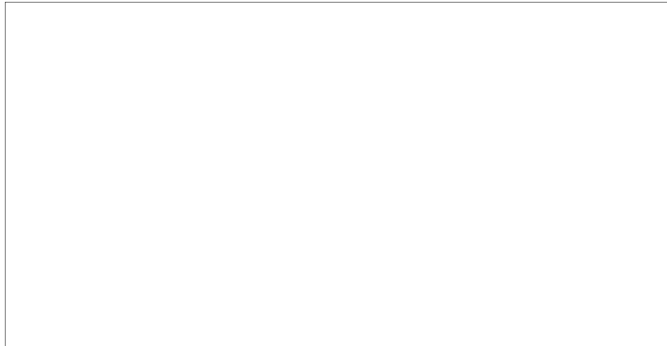


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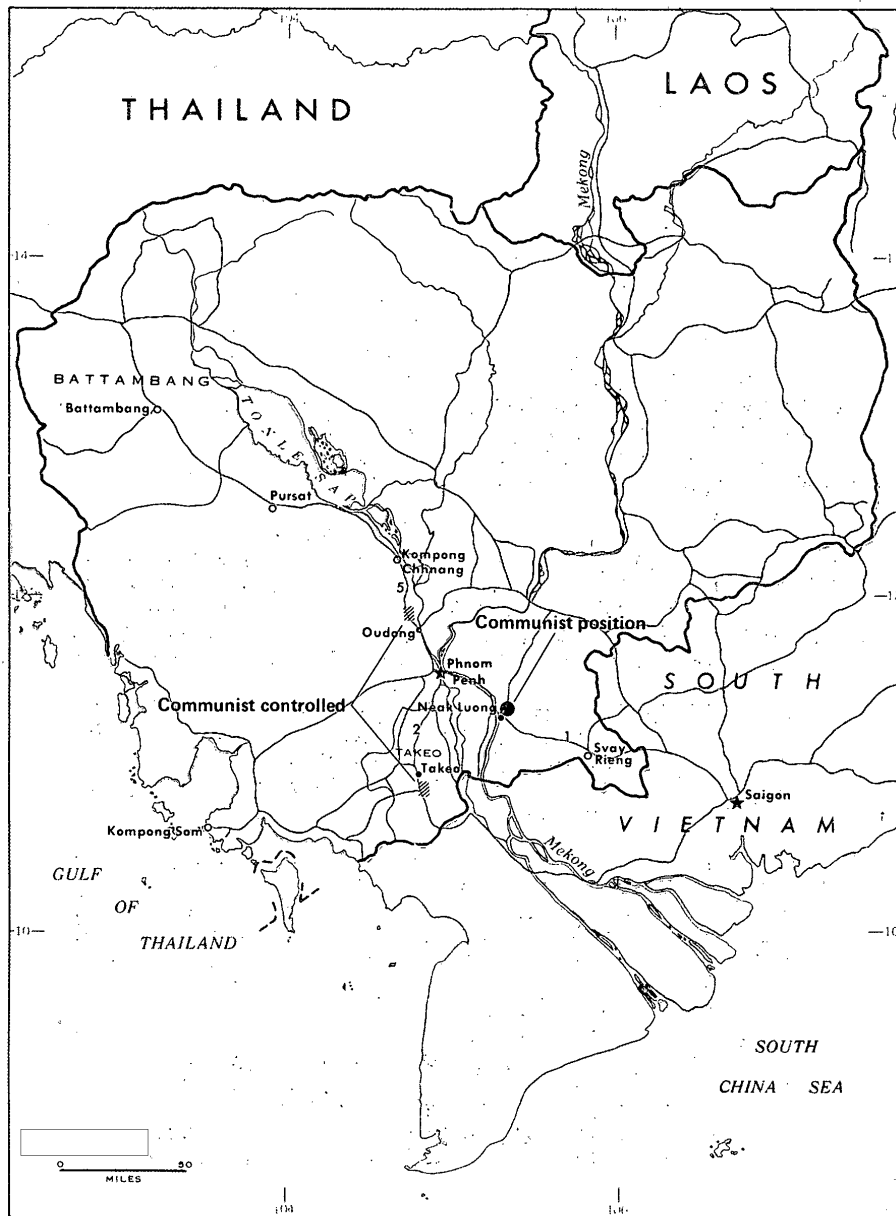
Officials of the Monsanto Company's European operations suspect that Arab terrorists are trying to sabotage their installations. The head of Monsanto Europe told our embassy in Brussels that two fires in Monsanto plants on Monday, one in Luxembourg and the other in Britain, were of suspicious origin. Yesterday a phone caller to the Monsanto Antwerp plant, identifying himself with "Black September," stated that there was an explosive in the plant, although subsequent investigation found none. Monsanto officials point to their "heavy and visible" involvement in Israel's industry as a reason for having been placed on the terrorists' target list.



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CAMBODIA



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CAMBODIA

Khmer Communist elements have dealt a setback to the government's efforts to reopen Route 5 to regular truck convoys carrying rice from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh. In recent days they have destroyed a bridge and gained control of a four-mile stretch of Route 5 some 33 miles northwest of the capital near Oudong. The Cambodians are now trying to organize an operation to clear the road, which they had hoped to open to traffic this week.

East of Phnom Penh, strong Communist ground attacks and shelling dispersed two battalions involved in a government effort to drive the enemy from a key high-ground position overlooking Neak Luong. This operation has been temporarily halted.

In Takeo Province, Cambodian forces have once again cleared Route 2 between Phnom Penh and the town of Takeo. Portions of the highway have been badly damaged by the recent fighting, however, and the Khmer Communists still hold a four-mile section of Route 2 south of the town.

Enemy intercepts indicate that the Communists intend to maintain their attacks on the government's main lines of communication. This, of course, will seriously complicate Cambodian efforts to keep Phnom Penh supplied with rice.

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CHILE

Army commander Prats wrote an open letter to the Chilean press on Friday defending his decision last month to retire the perennial coup plotter, General Canales. The letter charged that some newsmen had been trying to portray Canales as "a victim of intrigue or injustice." This diverts attention from the "real reason" for Canales' forced retirement, Prats went on, and contributes to a campaign to undermine military unity and subvert constitutional order. The Chilean Army is aware of its constitutional duties, Prats declared, and "we soldiers will not commit the crime of treason" by taking actions that would result in bloodshed of "thousands of fellow citizens."

Prats' letter was published in all Santiago papers on Saturday and prompted effusive praise from the pro-government media. A sharply critical reply to Prats from the acting president of the national journalists' association was published in opposition papers.

Prats' statement amounts to public affirmation that constitutional order is not now being violated by the Allende government and, for this reason, military action against it is not warranted.

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